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Darth Maul



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DARTH MAUL

Book I, Part I

In the shadows, an ancient enemy stirs. The Sith – practitioners of the dark side of the Force long thought destroyed – secretly work to undermine and eventually overthrow the Jedi Order, the guardians of peace and justice in the galaxy.

Two members of the Sith order – Darth Sidious and his apprentice Darth Maul – secretly await their moment to strike. But while Sidious plans an intricate series of deceptions and machinations, Maul grows restless.

The moment of revenge is close at hand, and he is unwilling to wait much longer....

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Twon Ketee.

WATCH YOUR
SPACING.

GET TOO
CLOSE AND
I'M LIKELY TO BURN
YOUR FACES OFF
WHEN I CUT
LOOSE.

DON'T
GET TRIGGER-
HAPPY.

GOOD
LUCK GETTING
PAID IF YOU KILL
ONE OF 'EM
YOURSELF.

I KNOW
THE OP.

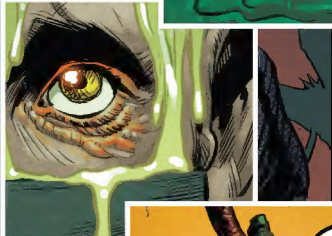
BIG GAME
HUNTER DOESN'T
WANT TO BREAK A
SWEAT WITH GRUNT
WORK.

NEEDS
US TO FLUSH
THE PREY TO
HIM.

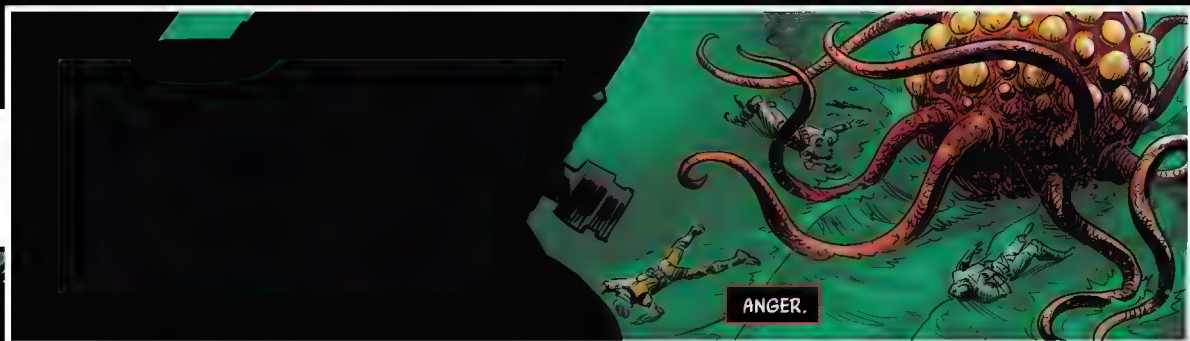
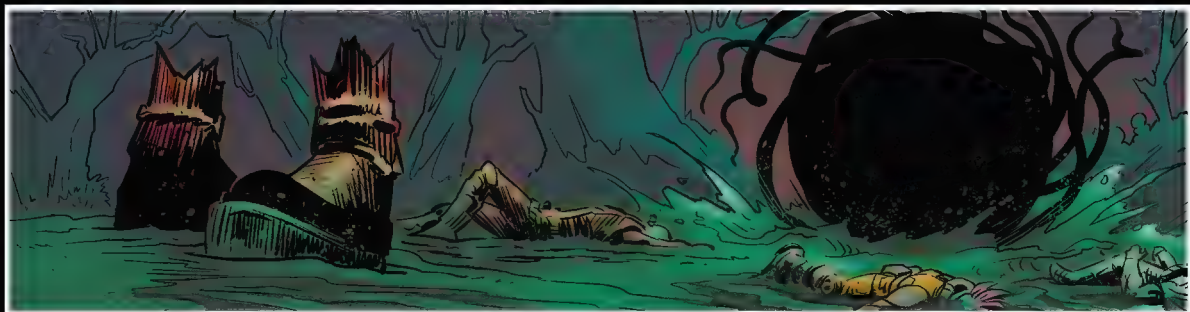
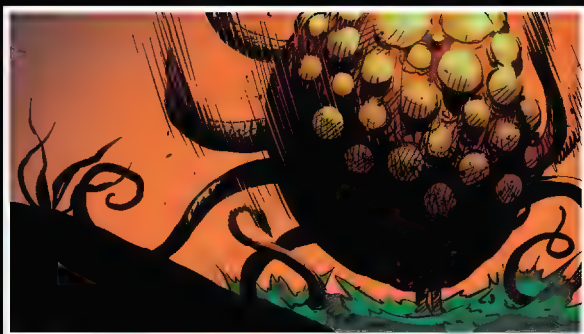
TELL ME
SOMETHING,
FELLAS.

DAYS LIKE
THIS, DO YA
FEEL LIKE THE
PREDATOR...

...OR THE--



RRRRRRR
AAA
AAA





THESE MARK THE
STEPS ALONG
THE PATH TO THE
DARK SIDE.

THESE ARE THE
WEAPONS OF
THE SITH.

AND I HAVE
TRAINED TO USE
THESE WEAPONS
WELL.

I AM
DARTH
MAUL.



RATHTARS ARE AMONG
THE MOST DANGEROUS
CREATURES IN THE GALAXY.



HUNGRY.

VICIOUS.

RELENTLESS.



WE ARE
SO ALIKE...

...AND YET SO
DIFFERENT.



AH,
YES.



PACK
HUNTERS.



GOOD.



WHEN MY
AMUSEMENT
HAS REACHED
ITS END...

...MY BLOODLUST
WILL STILL NOT BE
TEMPERED.



THE THRILL
OF THE HUNT...



...THE RUSH OF
DEFYING DEATH...



...WILL PASS ALL
TOO QUICKLY.

FIGHTING
RATHTARS IS A
HOLLOW MEAL.



KR-KRK-KRAK!



THIS IS BUT A
TEST...A SHADOW OF
THE **DESTRUCTION**
I WILL BRING.

IF ONLY THE LEASH
AROUND MY THROAT
WOULD **LOOSEN**.



HUNGRY.

VICIOUS AND
RELENTLESS.

OBEDIENT
TO NO ONE.



I ENVY
THEM THEIR
FREEDOM.



JEDI.

THE PEACEKEEPERS
OF THE GALACTIC
REPUBLIC.



COWARDS.

WALLOWING... HIDING
IN THE *PEACE*
THEY ENFORCE.



THEIR STRENGTH
IS *WANING*.

DEEP DOWN, THEY
KNOW THEY CANNOT
MAINTAIN *ORDER*
FOREVER.



AND WHEN THEIR TIME
BEGINS TO TUMBLE
INTO *DARKNESS*...



...THEY WILL
FIND *ME* WAITING
FOR THEM.



I SENSE--

YES, MASTER. I FEEL IT TOO. SO... COLD.

THERE IS SOMEONE...



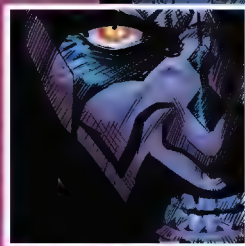
...WATCHING US.

I HAVE ENDURED GREAT SUFFERING AS PART OF MY TRAINING.

ALL SO I MIGHT BE AN INSTRUMENT OF REVENGE.

CAREFUL, MY PADAWAN.

THE SHADOWS HOLD GREAT RAGE...



...CONSTRAINED... BUT SO DEEP IT MIGHT SWALLOW YOU WHOLE.

ALL SO I CAN KILL JEDI.



BUT NOT TODAY.

THERE'S NOTHING... NO ONE... HERE, MASTER.

COULD OUR SENSES BE BETRAYING US?

IF WE CANNOT RELY ON THE FORCE--



STEADY YOURSELF.

TRUST IN THE FORCE.

ALWAYS.

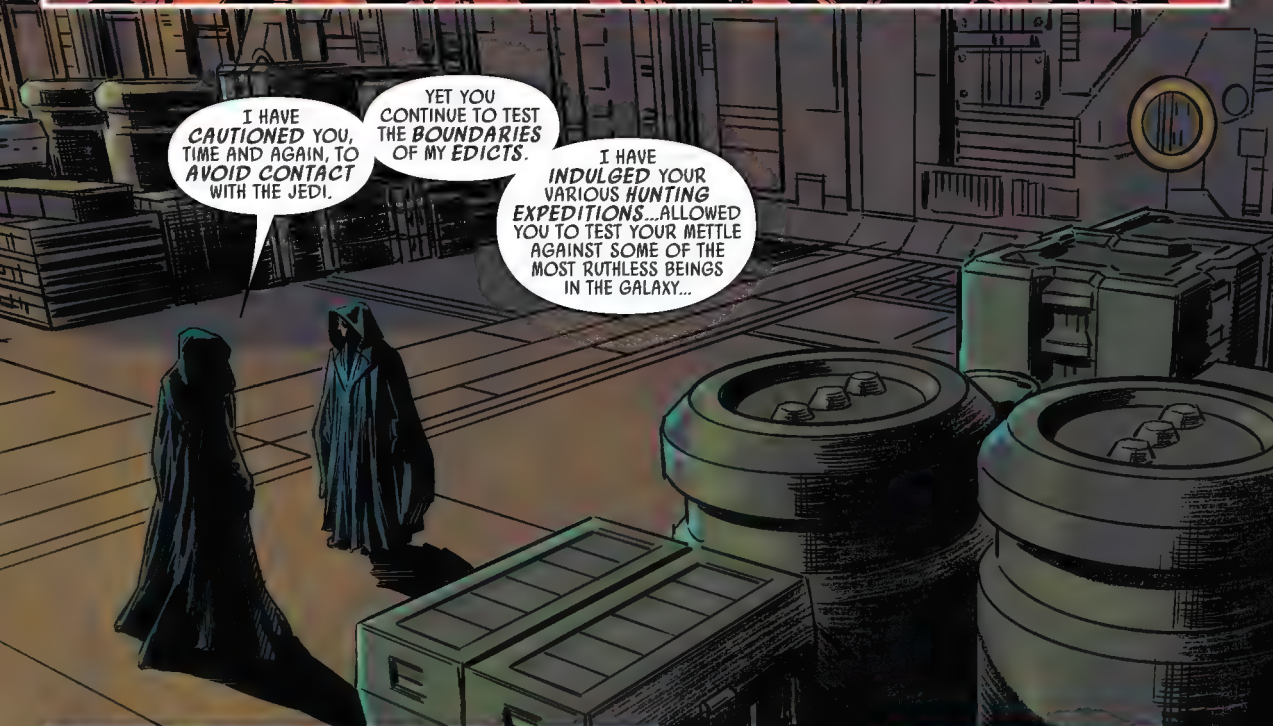
"THESE *GAMES*...
THESE *DISTRACTIONS*...
COULD PROVE YOUR
UNDOING, MY
APPRENTICE."



I HAVE
CAUTIONED YOU,
TIME AND AGAIN, TO
AVOID CONTACT
WITH THE JEDI.

YET YOU
CONTINUE TO TEST
THE *BOUNDARIES*
OF MY *EDICTS*.

I HAVE
INDULGED YOUR
VARIOUS *HUNTING*
EXPEDITIONS...ALLOWED
YOU TO TEST YOUR METTLE
AGAINST SOME OF THE
MOST RUTHLESS BEINGS
IN THE GALAXY...



...BUT TO
TOY WITH THE
JEDI...YOU RISK
TOO MUCH.

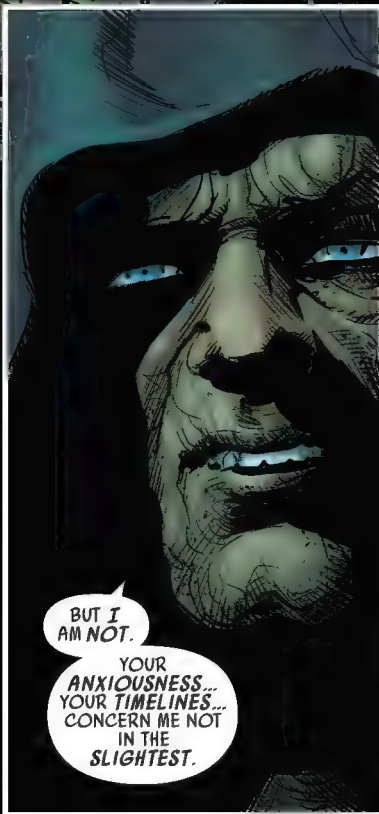
I ONLY
WISH TO PROVE
MYSELF, MY
MASTER.

I AM
READY--



BUT I
AM NOT.

YOUR
ANXIOUSNESS...
YOUR *TIMELINES*...
CONCERN ME NOT
IN THE
SLIGHTEST.



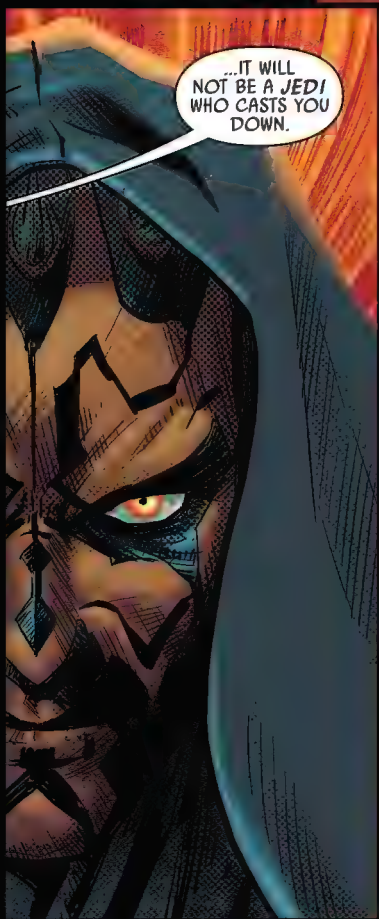
MY PLANS...
AND THE ACTIONS YOU
WILL TAKE IN THE NAME OF
THOSE PLANS...WILL UNFOLD
ACCORDING TO
MY WHIM.

HEED
MY WORDS,
MY YOUNG
STUDENT.

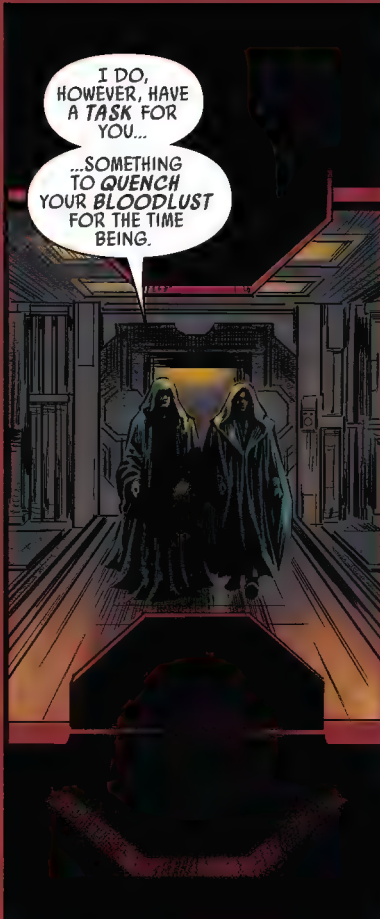


YOUR
ANGER...YOUR THIRST
FOR VENGEANCE...
MAKES YOU
FEARSOME.

BUT IF YOU
ENDANGER MY
PREPARATIONS
AND MANEUVERS
AGAIN...



...IT WILL NOT BE A JEDI WHO CASTS YOU DOWN.



I DO, HOWEVER, HAVE A TASK FOR YOU...

...SOMETHING TO *QUENCH* YOUR *BLOODLUST* FOR THE TIME BEING.



OUR ALLIES IN THE *TRADE FEDERATION* HAVE REQUESTED *ASSISTANCE*.

WHILE ESTABLISHING SECRET MINING FACILITIES IN THE KELLUX SYSTEM, THEY HAVE RUN AFOUL OF A PARTICULARLY CUNNING FACTION OF *PIRATES*.



THEIR *DROID DEFENSES* HAVE BEEN RENDERED INOPERABLE BY MAKESHIFT *ELECTROSTATIC FIELD GENERATORS*.

AND THEY CANNOT REACH OUT TO THE REPUBLIC FOR AID WITHOUT REVEALING THEIR *UNSANCTIONED* ACTIVITIES.

I HAVE BEEN ALERTED THANKS ONLY TO MY OWN *VESTED INTERESTS* IN THE PROJECT.



AS YOU WISH, MY MASTER. I WILL DEPART FOR KELLUX AT ONCE.

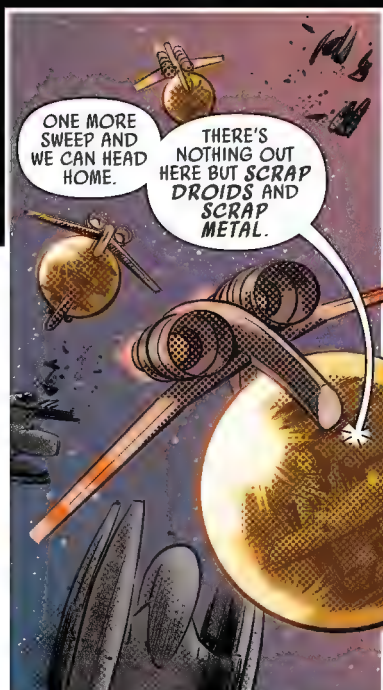
REST ASSURED, YOUR *INTERESTS* WILL BE *PROTECTED*.



YES.

YES, OF COURSE.

WHAT *ELSE* WOULD I EXPECT?



ONE MORE SWEEP AND WE CAN HEAD HOME.

THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE BUT **SCRAP DROIDS** AND **SCRAP METAL**.



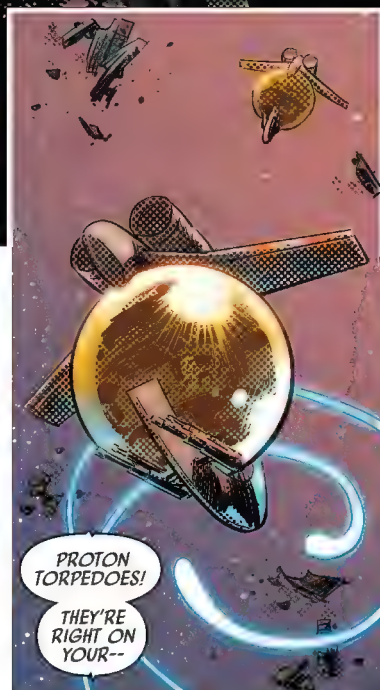
HEADS UP, DRAL!

YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR TAIL-- INCOMING!

WHAT?

WHERE'D IT COME FROM?

WHAT IS IT?



PROTON TORPEDOES!

THEY'RE RIGHT ON YOUR--



THE *SITH*
WORK IN THE
SHADOWS.

MY EXISTENCE
MUST REMAIN
A SECRET.

BUT THERE IS
RAPTURE IN THE
REVELATION.



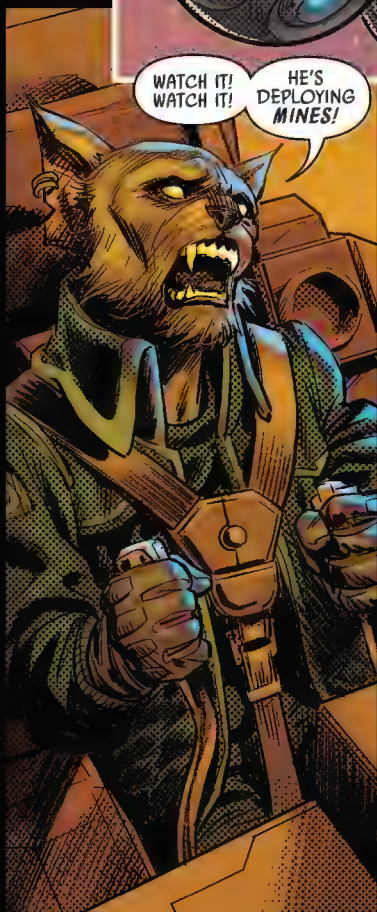
MORE *SCRAPS*
FROM MY
MASTER'S TABLE.



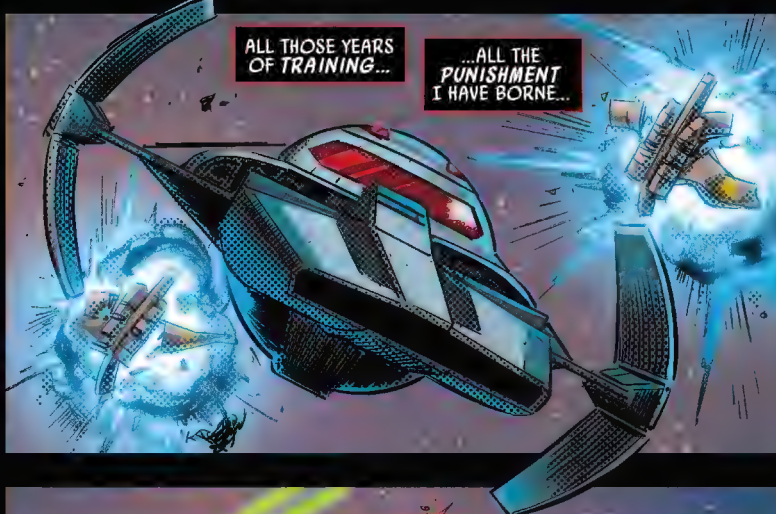
A SHIP! IT
CAME OUT OF
NOWHERE!
IT WAS
CLOAKED!



I AM
DENIED.

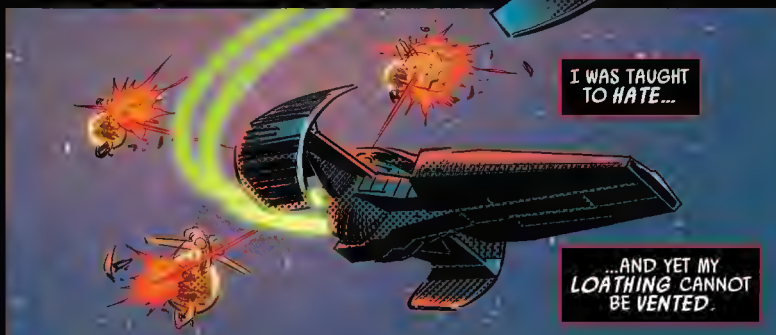


WATCH IT!
WATCH IT!
HE'S
DEPLOYING
MINES!



ALL THOSE YEARS
OF TRAINING...

...ALL THE
PUNISHMENT
I HAVE BORNE...



I WAS TAUGHT
TO HATE...

...AND YET MY
LOATHING CANNOT
BE VENTED.



IT IS AS WE SAID. WE HAVE POWERFUL ALLIES.

IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO SURRENDER AT ONCE.



ANOTHER WORD OUT OF YOU, AND WE'LL JETTISON YOU LIKE GARBAGE!

THERE'S JUST ONE SHIP OUT THERE.

THE ORB-WINGS SHOULD--



TH-THUMP



HE'S ALREADY ON BOARD!

HE'S BLASTING THROUGH THE DOOR!

GET READY! WHEN HE COMES THROUGH-- SHRED HIM!

IT IS STRANGE--
IRONIC--THAT I
HAVE BEEN URGED
TO GIVE IN TO
MY PASSION...

...MY
UNEASE...

...AND YET MY MASTER
COMMANDS ME TO
BIDE MY TIME.



BUT
SLAUGHTERING
PIRATES...

...HUNTING
BEASTS...

...WILL ONLY
DISTRACT ME
FOR SO LONG.



I AM THE
KEENEST BLADE
IN MY MASTER'S
ARSENAL...

...AND YET I
GROW DULL
THROUGH DISUSE.

MY FRUSTRATION...
MY ANXIOUSNESS...

...MY DESIRE TO
TEST MYSELF
AGAINST THE JEDI...



...ONLY DEEPENS.



P-PLEASE!
PLEASE WAIT!

I KNOW
W-WHAT YOU
ARE!



THE
LIGHTSABER...

...YOU...

...YOU'RE
A JEDI,
RIGHT?

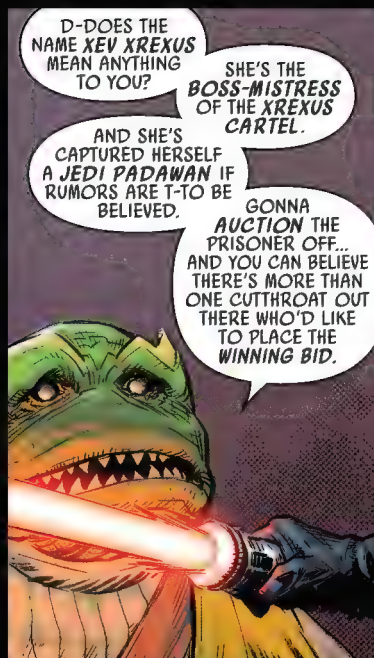
I C-CAN
BARTER...TRADE
INFORMATION
FOR MY LIFE...



I
HAVE INTEL...
INTEL YOU'LL
DEFINITELY
WANT!

SPEAK.

I'LL
JUDGE IF
YOUR SECRETS
WARRANT
MERCY.



D-DOES THE
NAME XEV XREXUS
MEAN ANYTHING
TO YOU?

SHE'S THE
BOSS-MISTRESS
OF THE XREXUS
CARTEL.

AND SHE'S
CAPTURED HERSELF
A JEDI PADAWAN IF
RUMORS ARE T-TO BE
BELIEVED.

GONNA
AUCTION THE
PRISONER OFF...
AND YOU CAN BELIEVE
THERE'S MORE THAN
ONE CUTTHROAT OUT
THERE WHO'D LIKE
TO PLACE THE
WINNING BID.



WHERE?

Y-YOU
SEE? I KNEW WE'D
GET ALONG JUST
FINE.

WE CAN HELP
EACH OTHER OUT
A BIT, YEAH?

WHERE?

I DON'T
REALLY HAVE ANY
OTHER DETAILS,
BUT IF--



KRAK!



A PADAWAN
LEARNER... AN
APPRENTICE,
LIKE MYSELF...

...HELD PRISONER
AND OFFERED UP
FOR *SACRIFICE*
TO THE HIGHEST
BIDDER.



WELL
DONE! WELL
DONE!

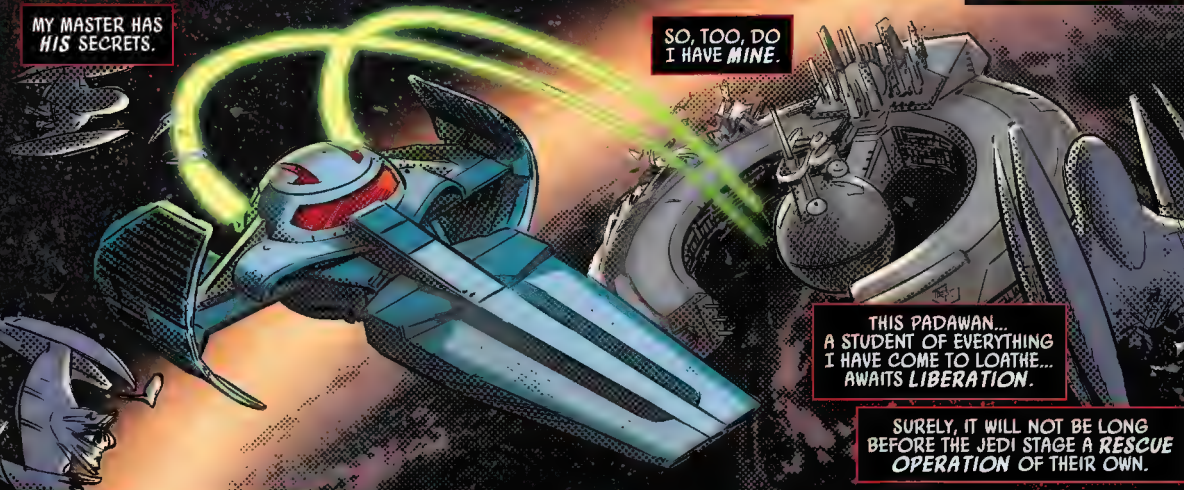
YOU'VE
SAVED ME...

...AND YOU'VE
UNCOVERED
INFORMATION FOR WHICH
WE'LL BE *REWARDED*
GREATLY WHEN WE
INFORM LORD
SIDIOUS--

A PITY...
THE PIRATES KILLED
EVERYONE ON THIS
VESSEL BEFORE I
ARRIVED.



HRRK!

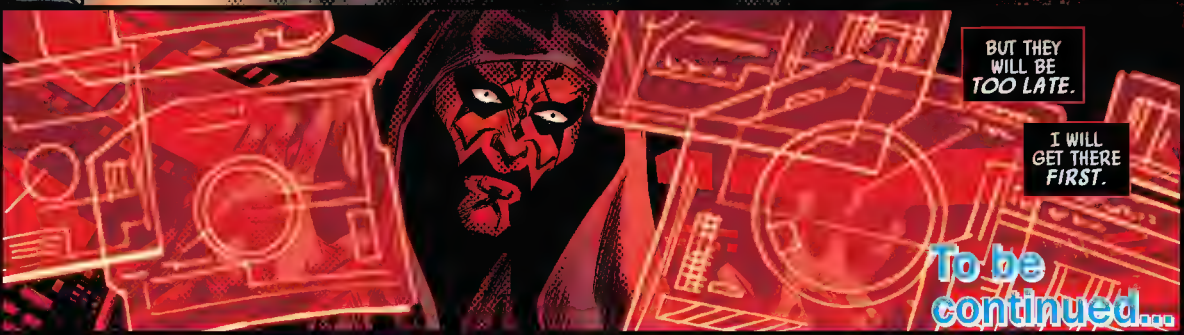


MY MASTER HAS
HIS SECRETS.

SO, TOO, DO
I HAVE *MINE*.

THIS PADAWAN...
A STUDENT OF EVERYTHING
I HAVE COME TO LOATHE...
AWAITS *LIBERATION*.

SURELY, IT WILL NOT BE LONG
BEFORE THE JEDI STAGE A *RESCUE*
OPERATION OF THEIR OWN.



BUT THEY
WILL BE
TOO LATE.

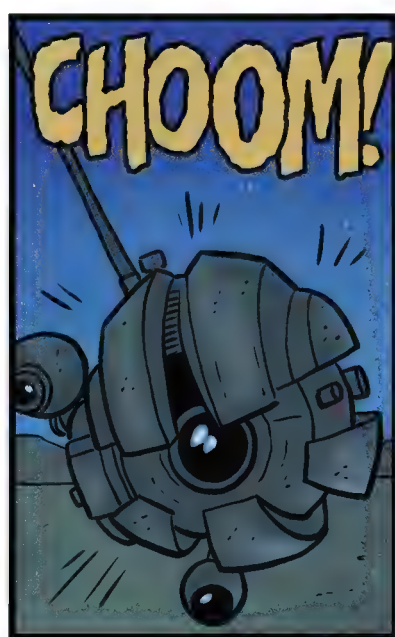
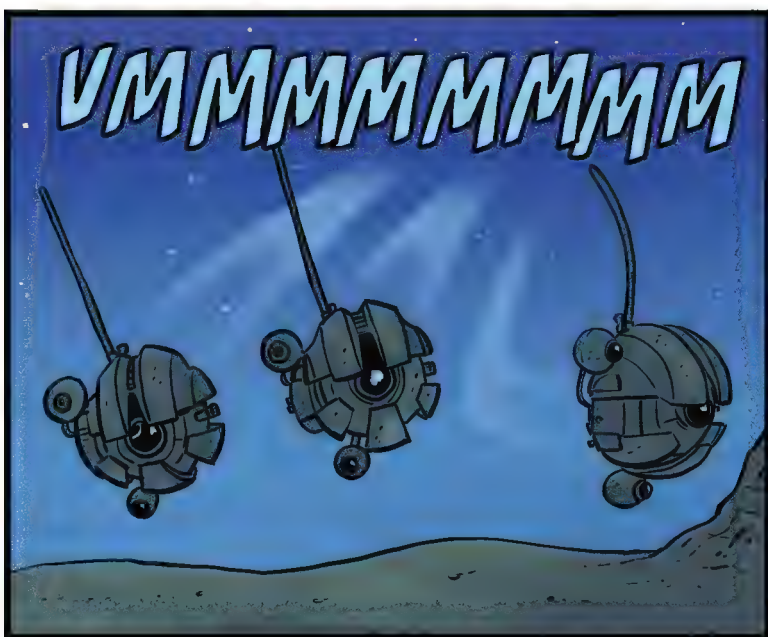
I WILL
GET THERE
FIRST.

To be
continued...

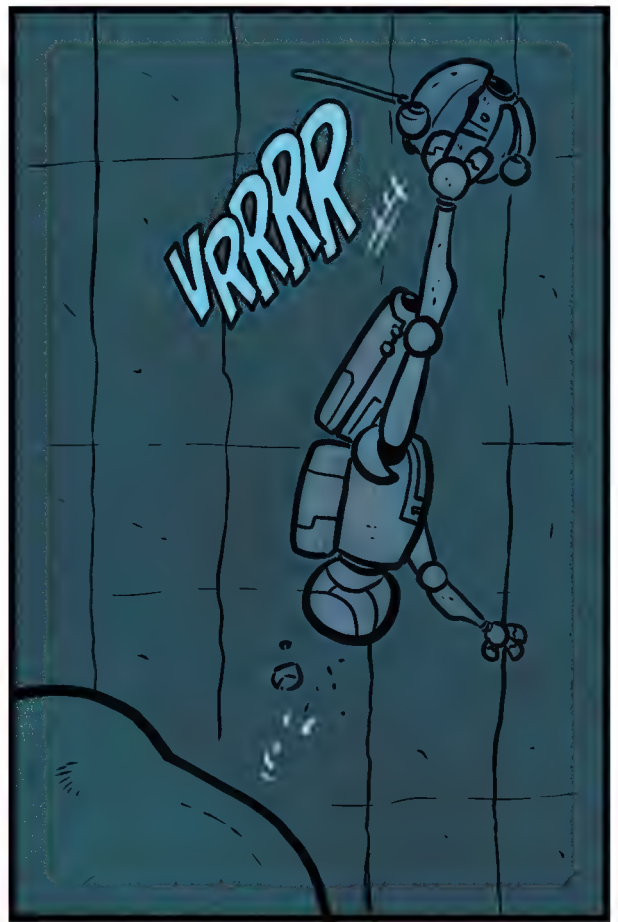
PROBE DROID PROBLEM

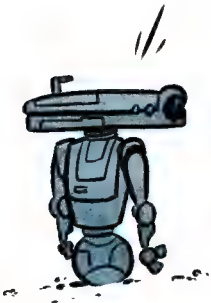
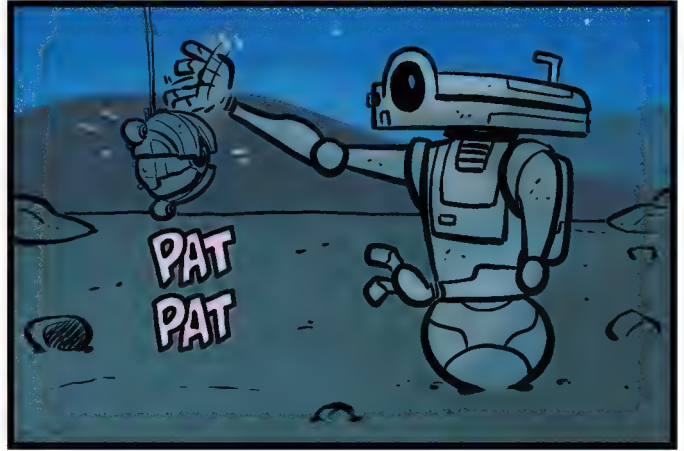
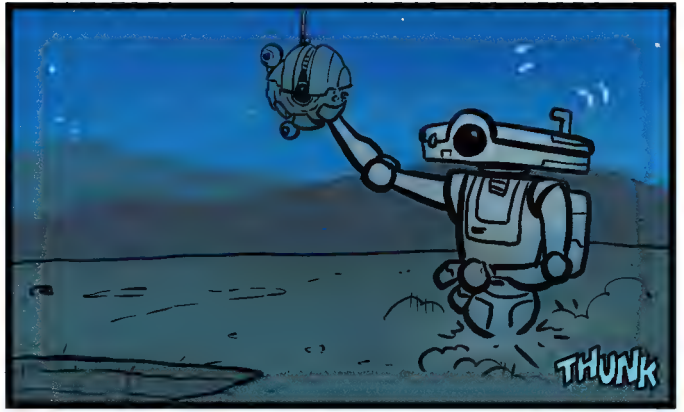
BY CHRIS
ELIOPOULOS
AND JORDIE
BELLAIRE

THESE EVENTS TAKE PLACE ON TATOOINE DURING THE PHANTOM MENACE.

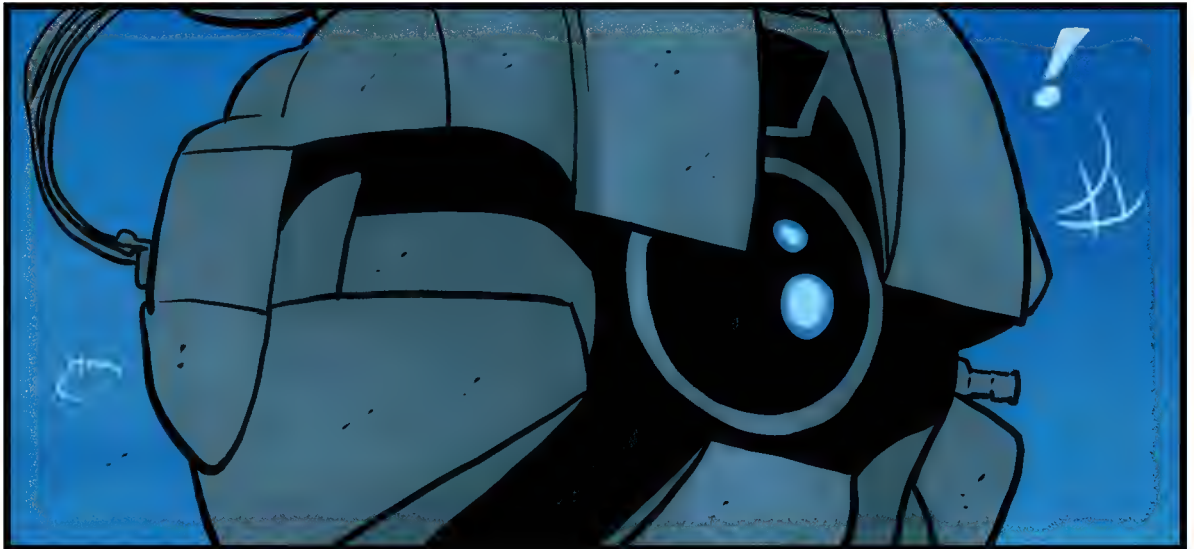


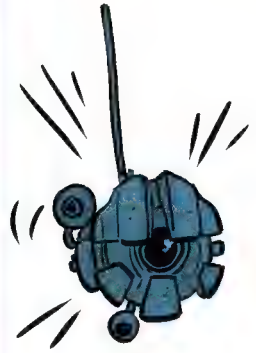
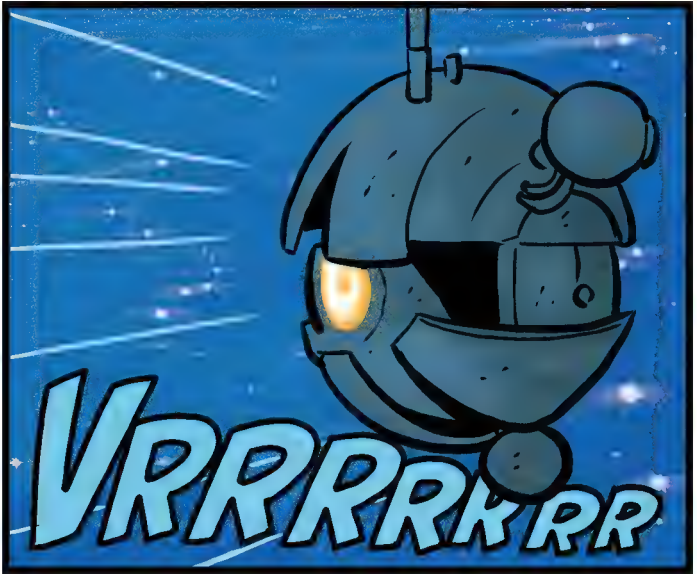
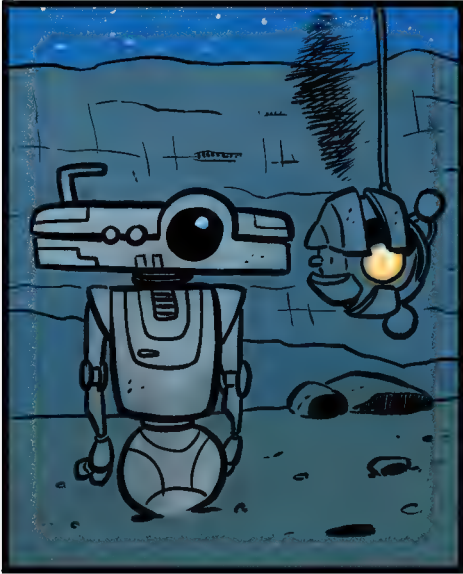
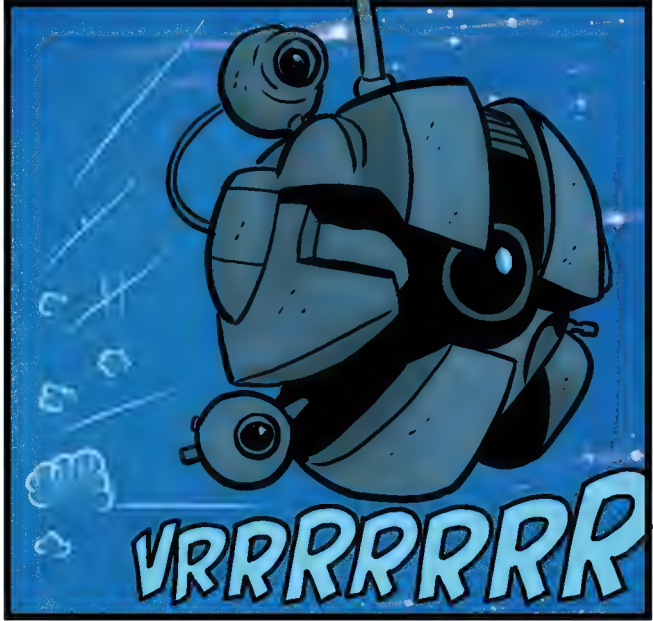
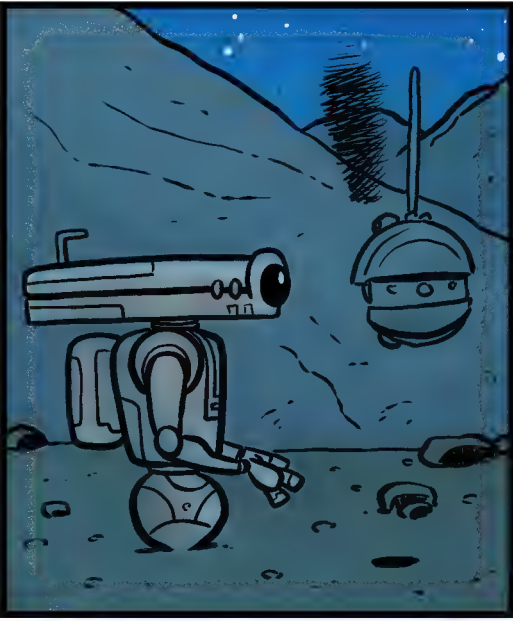


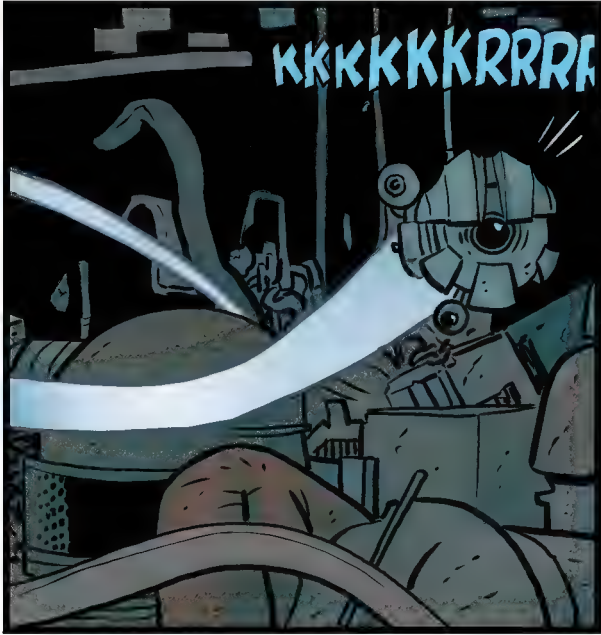
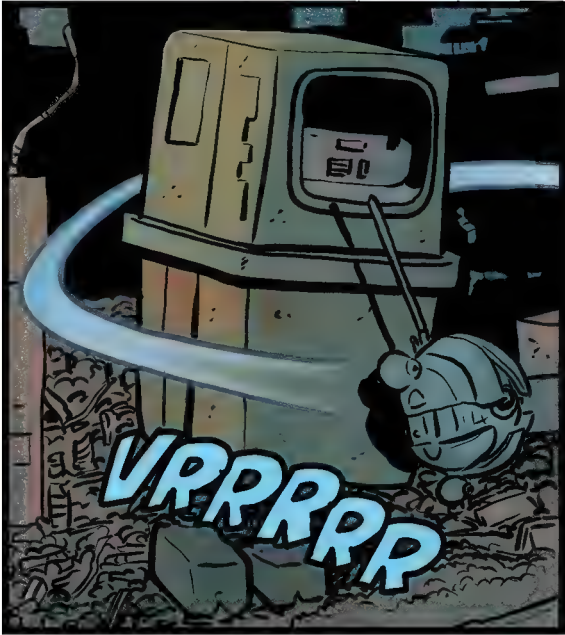
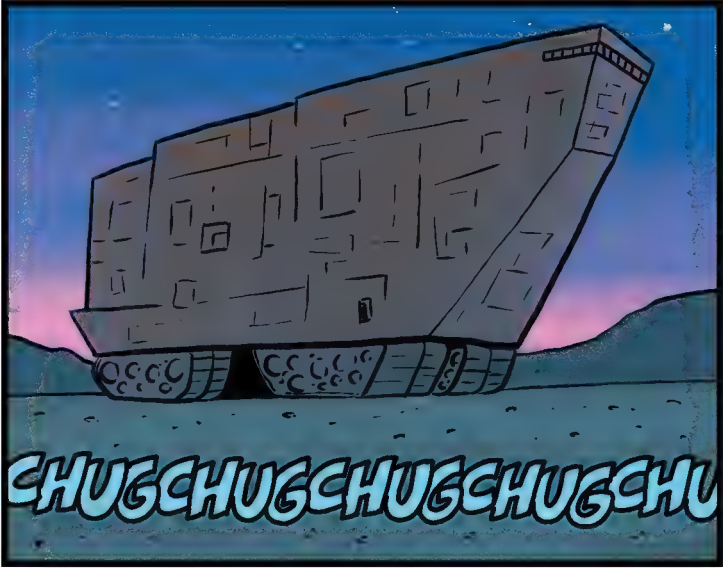
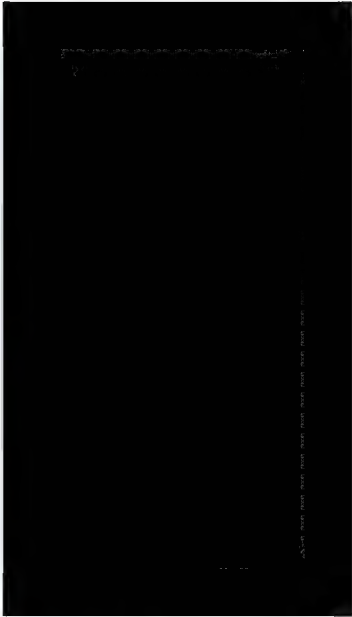
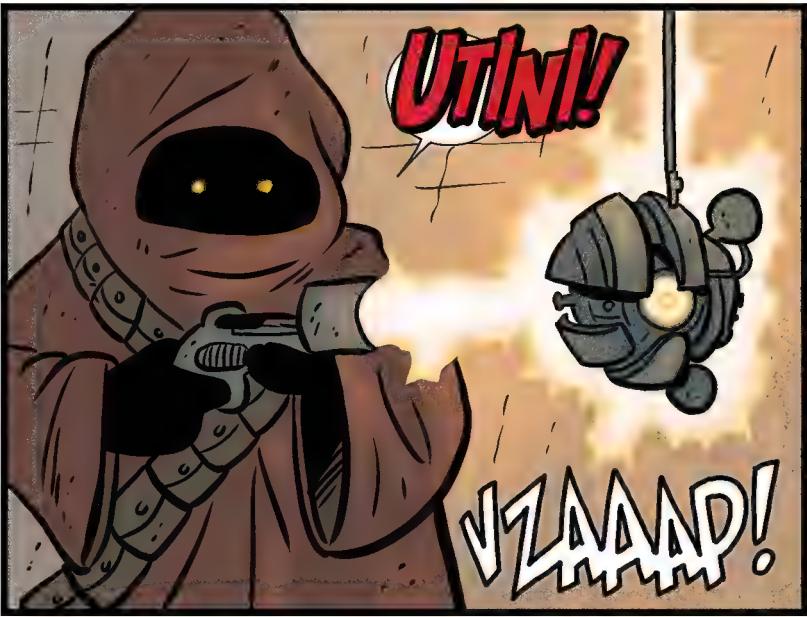




VRRRRRRRR



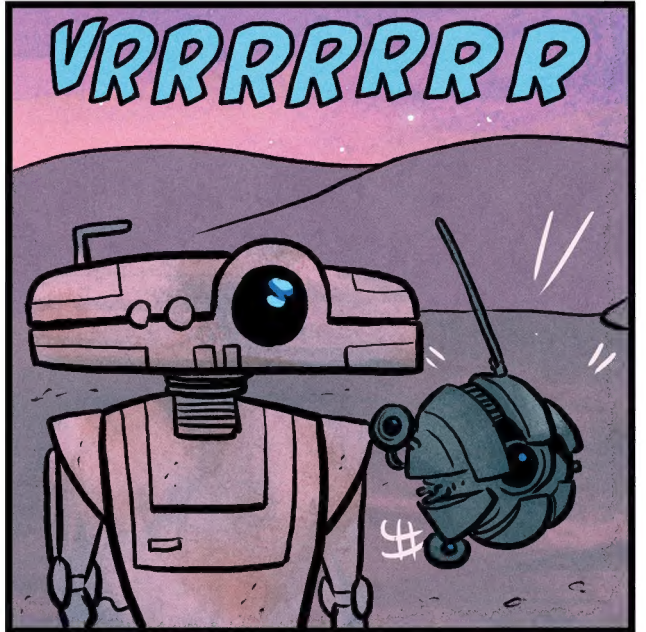
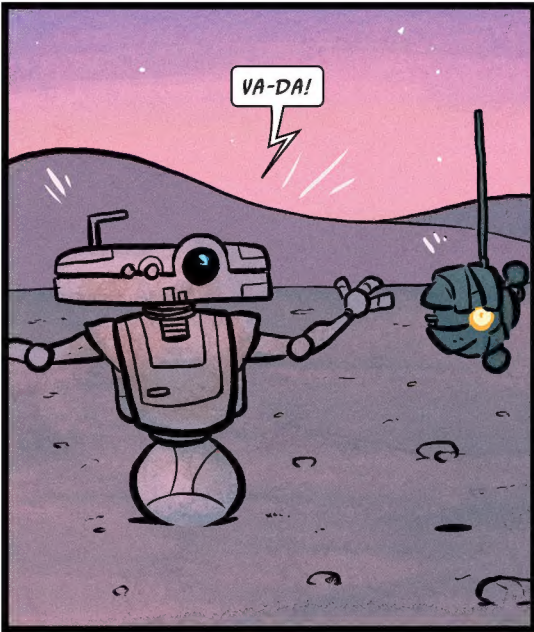
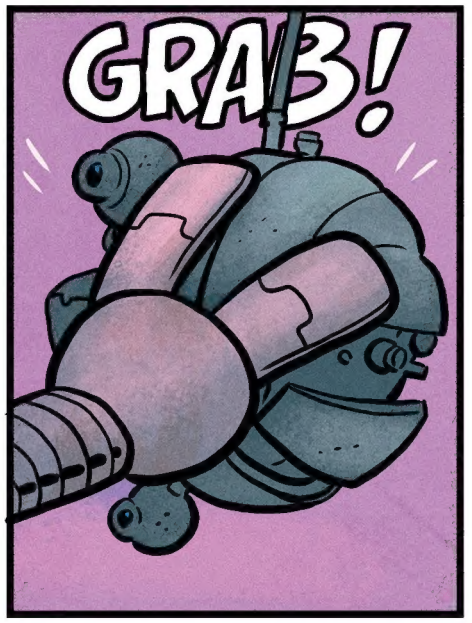
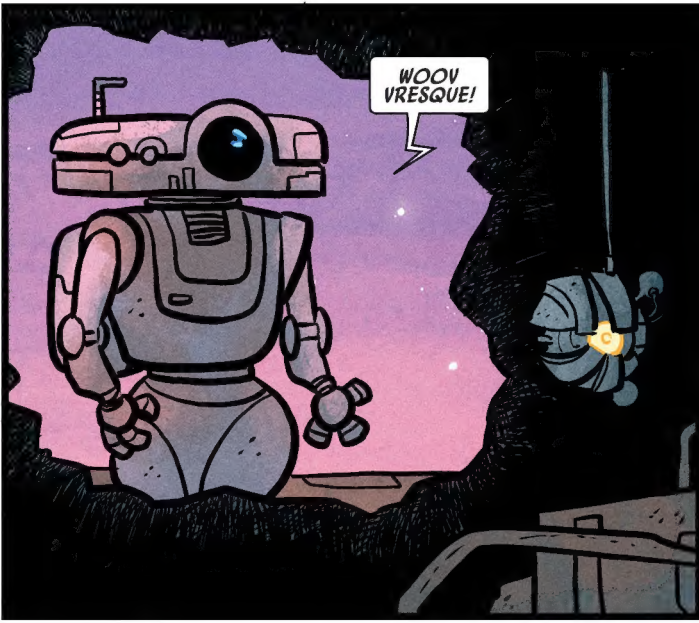


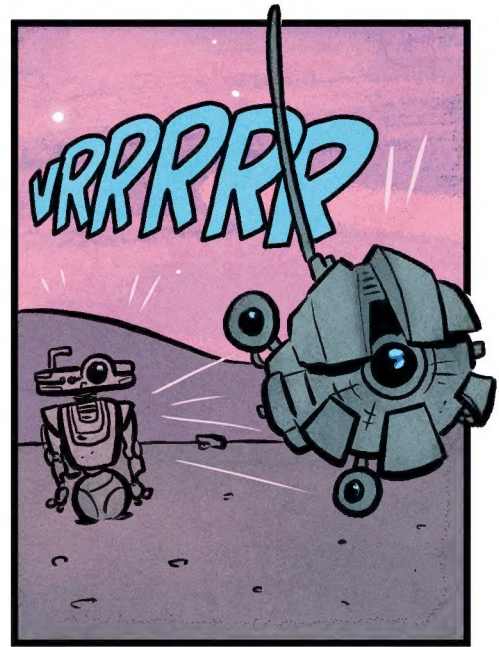
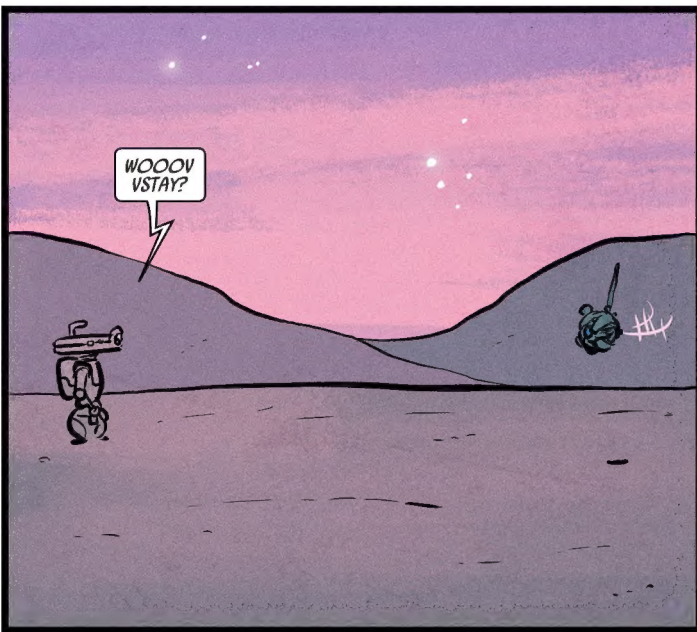
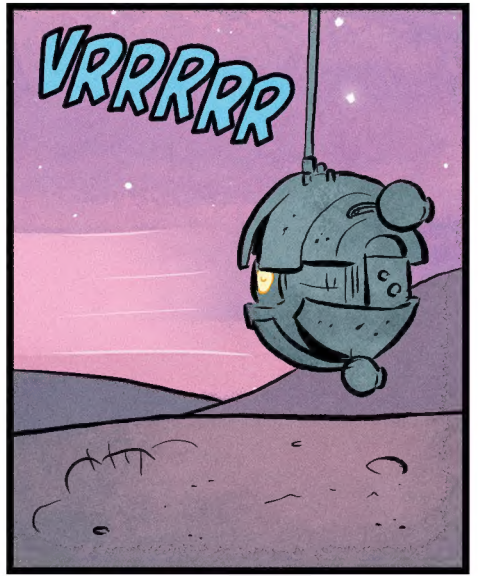
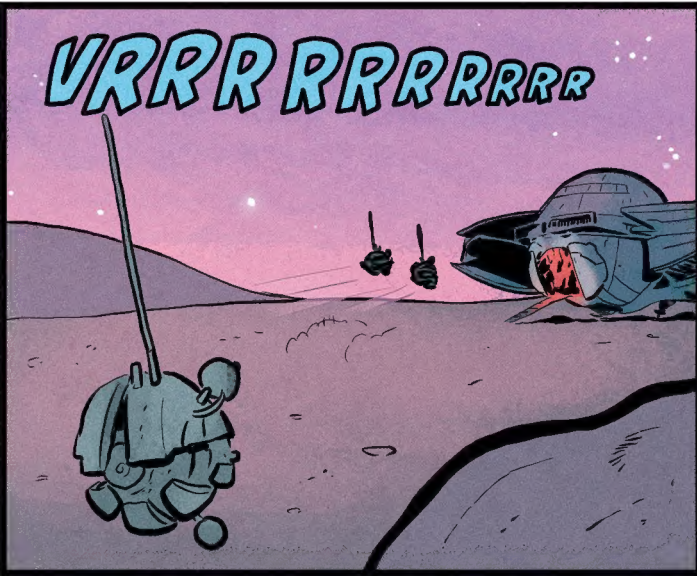
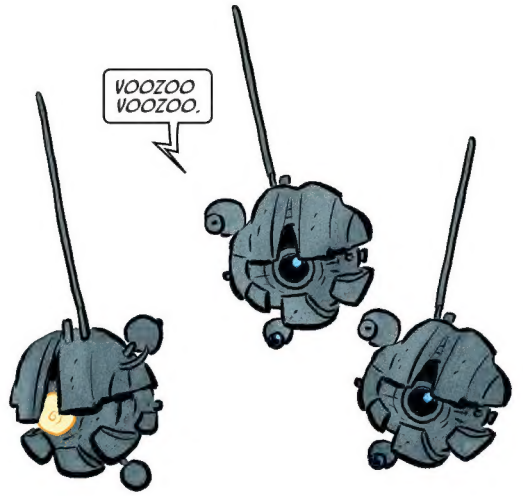


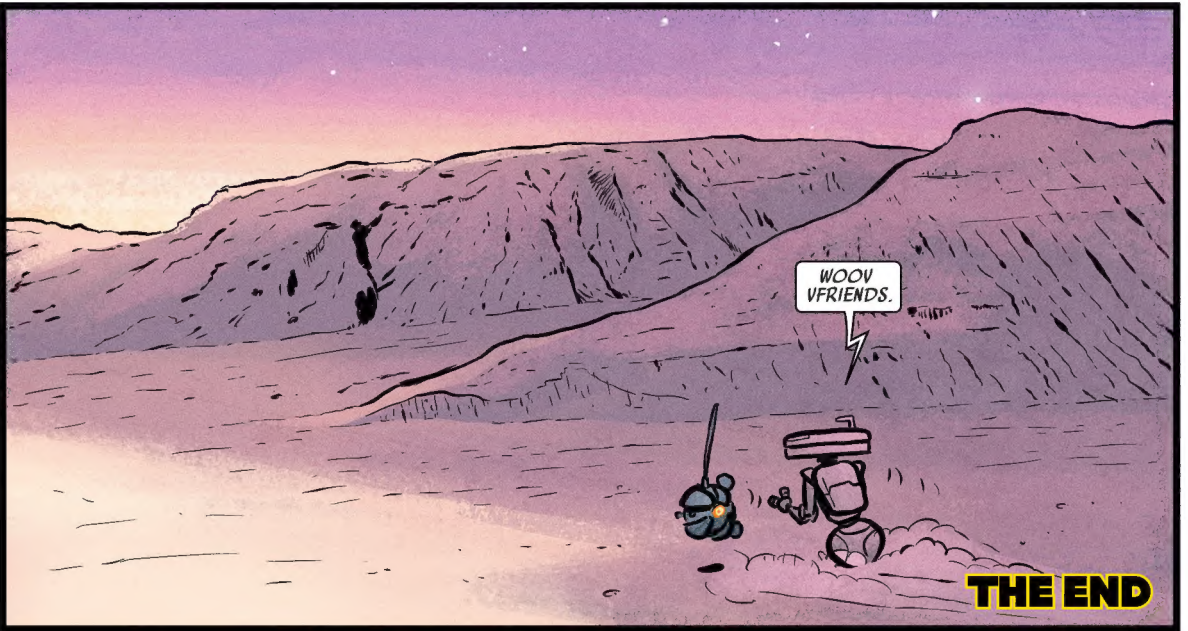
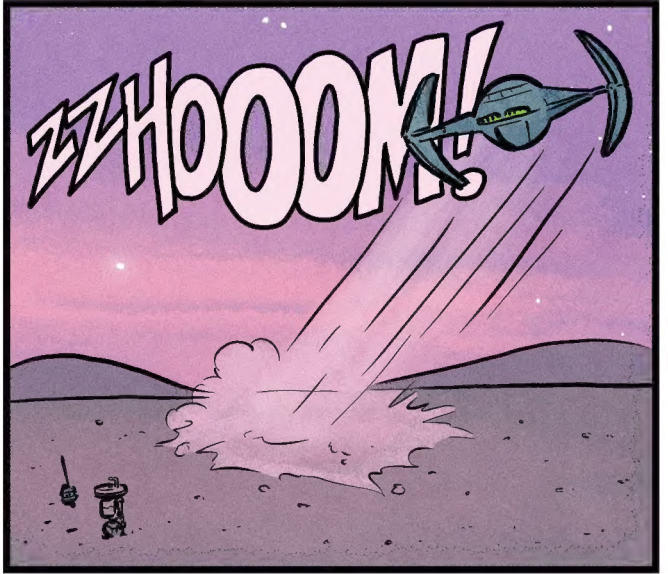
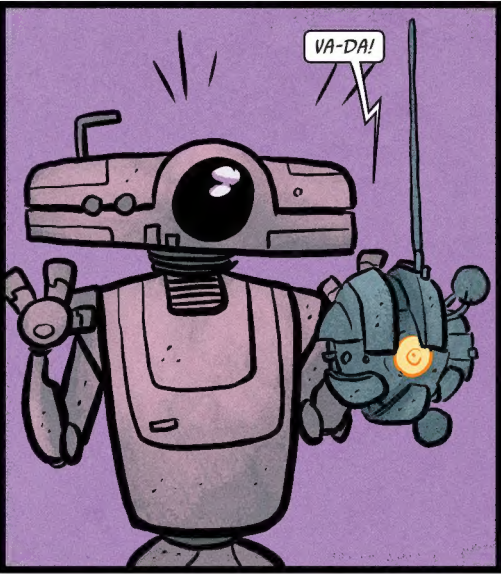
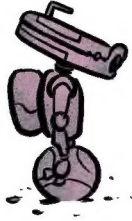
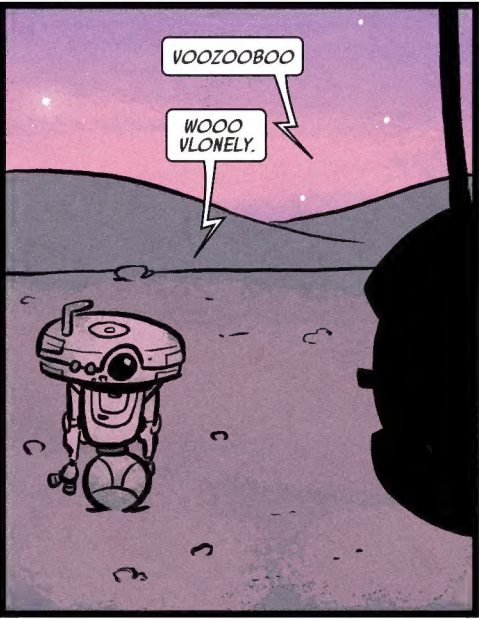
**BRAKKA
BOOM!**



TINK TINK TINK







DARTH MAUL

NEXT ISSUE:

